

REMARKS

Claims 1-51 are pending and under consideration. With this Amendment, Claim 49 is being amended and Claims 50 and 51 are being canceled as drawn to a non-elected invention, without prejudice against their reintroduction into this or one or more timely filed continuation, divisional or continuation-in-part applications. Thus, after entry of this Amendment, Claims 1-49 are pending and under consideration. The restriction requirement raised in the Office Action is discussed in more detail, below.

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 49 has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error. The scope of the claim remains unchanged. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Restriction Under 35 U.S.C. § 121

In the Restriction Requirement, the Patent Office has required restriction of the originally pending claims to one of two inventive groups:

Group 1 (Claims 1-49) drawn to a method comprising contacting a sample with a first signal probe, a first quencher probe, at least a second signal probe, and an optional second quencher probe, classified in class 435, subclass 6; and

Group II (Claims 50 and 51) drawn to a kit comprising a plurality of signal-quencher probe pairs, classified in class 536, subclass 24.3

Applicants elect the claims of Group I for further prosecution on the merits.

Conclusion

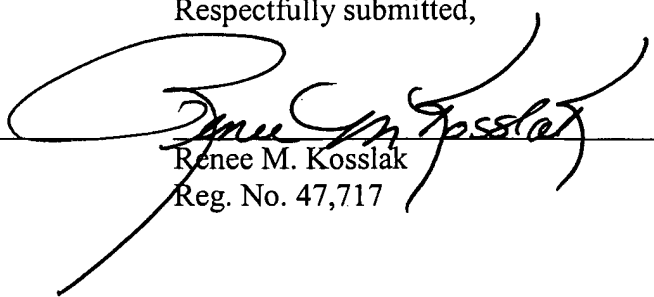
Claims 1-49 are believed to satisfy all of the criteria for patentability and are in condition for allowance. An early indication of the same is therefore kindly requested.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with this Amendment. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may required, or credit any overpayment, to Dechert LLP Deposit Account No. 50-2778 (Order No. 375461-036US (355414)).

Respectfully submitted,

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